

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 27, 2005. Claims 1 to 5, 9 to 13, 15, 16, 25, 44, 63 and 65 to 74 remain in the application. Claims 1, 25, 44, 63, 66, 72, 73 and 74 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5, 9 to 25, 40, 44 and 59 to 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,560,640 (Smethers) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,915,119 (Konishi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to obtaining address information by, for example, a multifunction device (MFP) connected to a personal computer (PC). According to the invention, a communication apparatus (MFP) has a management unit that stores ID information of users and associated address location information. When a user inputs their ID into the MFP, the MFP looks up the associated address location information (e.g., an address for the PC) so as to determine whether or not address information can be obtained from an external apparatus (e.g., from the PC). If so, then the MFP address information residing at the PC is obtained and displayed on the MFP. As a result, addresses corresponding to the user (e.g., an address book) can be stored on the PC, but can be accessed by the MFP so that the user can send data to an address.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus, comprising an image capture unit, adapted to capture an image and to generate data based on the captured image, a communication unit, adapted to transmit the data generated by the image capture unit to a designated destination, a management unit, adapted to manage ID information determined for each

user and address location information associated with the ID information, wherein the address location information indicates a location that stores address information for designating the destination to transmit the data by the communication unit, an input unit with which the user inputs the ID information, an obtaining unit, adapted to specify the address location information managed by the management unit based on the ID information input by the input unit, to communicate with an external apparatus via a network based on the specified address location information, and to obtain the address information residing at the external apparatus corresponding to the location specified by the address location information, and a control unit, adapted to judge whether or not the address information is to be obtained based on the ID information input by the input unit, and to control the obtaining unit according to the result of the judgement, wherein the communication unit transmits the data to the destination designated from the address information obtained by the obtaining unit.

Amended independent Claims 25, 44 and 63 are method, program and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Newly-added independent Claim 66 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is specifically directed to a communication apparatus comprising a management unit, adapted to manage ID information determined for each user and address location information associated with the ID information, wherein the address location information indicates a location that stores communication information, an input unit with which the user inputs the ID information, an obtaining unit, adapted to specify the address location information managed by the management unit based on the ID information input by the input unit, to communicate with an external apparatus via a network based on the

address location information, and to obtain the communication information residing at the external apparatus corresponding to the location specified by the address location information, and a control unit, adapted to judge whether or not the address information is to be obtained based on the ID information input by the input unit, and to control the obtaining unit according to a result of the judgment.

Newly-added independent Claims 72 to 74 are method, program and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 66.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 25, 44, 63, 66 and 72 to 74, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a communication apparatus judging whether or not address information (communication information) residing at an external apparatus is to be obtained from the external apparatus based on ID information of a user input by the user, and obtaining the address information (communication information) according to a judgment result.

Smethers merely discloses a wireless client that obtains a bookmark in which a URL of the Website for receiving the document is stored. However, the URL is not used to obtain address information for designating the destination for transmitting image data. Furthermore, Smethers fails to disclose the feature of judging whether or not to obtain the address information residing at the external apparatus based on the ID information input by the user. That is, Smethers merely discloses the feature of receiving the ID information (compact bookmark identifier) and thus obtaining the address location information (URL) associated with the received ID information, but does not disclose the feature of judging whether or not to obtain the address information based on the received

ID information. In the office action, it is pointed out that the control unit processor shown in Fig. 3 of Smethers allegedly corresponds to the checking of the predetermined assigned key. However, the function of the control unit processor in Smethers is to obtain the URL according to the predetermined assigned key in case of receiving the compact bookmark identifier, but does not judge whether or not the URL is to be obtained based on the input ID. Accordingly, Smethers is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.

Konishi is seen to teach a communication device that has an image capture unit. However, Konishi, like Smethers, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of judging whether or not to obtain address information residing in an external apparatus based on ID information of a user input by the user. Thus, Konishi is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Smethers, would have resulted in the present invention.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 25, 44, 63, 66 and 72 to 74, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

Applicant notes that, subsequent to issuance of the subject Office Action, an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on November 30, 2005 to cite various Japanese references cited in a corresponding Japanese application. Thus, for convenience, Applicant wishes to point out how each of those references differs from the presently claimed invention.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 11-355497 (Kaneya), discloses that one-touch dial information is downloaded from another network facsimile machine connected through a network. However, Kaneya does not disclose the feature of

communicating with an external apparatus via the network based on ID information, much less disclose the feature of judging whether or not to obtain the address information based on the ID information.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 11-055273 (Wakabayashi) discloses that set information of a facsimile equipment is held as a home page and provided to a personal computer through a LAN. However, Wakabayashi does not disclose the feature of communicating with an external apparatus based on ID information, much less disclose the feature of judging whether or not to obtain the address information based on the ID information.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2000-041123 (Todaka) discloses that, in a case where a facsimile equipment receives an image from the other terminal, the facsimile equipment analyzes a caller ID and transfers the received image to a printer corresponding to the caller ID. That is, Todaka discloses the feature of communicating with the external device based on the ID information, but does not disclose the feature of judging whether or not to obtain the address information based on the ID information.

Finally, U.S. Patent 6,674,537 (Kadowaki) discloses that, if ID information read from an ID card is transmitted to a personalized server, personalized information corresponding to the transmitted ID information is returned. That is, Kadowaki discloses the feature of communicating with the external device based on the ID information, but does not disclose the feature of judging whether or not to obtain the address information based on the ID information.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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